



# USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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Market News Branch

## NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices in the major terminal markets were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Trade sentiment was mostly steady with expectations that next week's business and movement would improve over current week trading. Current retail demand was seasonally slow to light, although food service was light to fairly good. Supplies of all sizes were generally sufficient for trade needs. Several processing plants were closed on Good Friday, with some scheduled to be closed on Monday. In the parts structure, trading was seasonally light even for a Friday. Breast items were sufficient, wings were readily available, and dark meat was mixed ranging from balanced to close. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were desirable to light, but mostly desirable.

**Preliminary report** Prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 28-MAR-2005 (cents per lb)

### US GRADE A

AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
(Including branded product)				
Delivered to First Receivers				
Chicago	67.00-70.00	61.00-77.00	69.78	27
New York	72.00-74.00			
Los Angeles	80.00			
Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent				
Mississippi	73.00-76.00	69.00-81.00	74.01	89

**GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES** Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 74.00 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

### PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
946	70.00-76.00	73.89
Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:		
ITEM	WTD. AVG. (CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	178.00	1,088
BREASTS - B/S	157.00	5,541
BREASTS - WHOLE	86.50	1,353
THIGH MEAT - B/S	94.50	766
LEG QUARTERS	32.00	6,874
WINGS	103.50	2,828

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

**MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS** Preliminary majority prices for next week's delivery into the Chicago area were unchanged. Whole fryer market tone was steady to fully steady on light offers and trade interest. Demand was very light into retail; light to moderate into food service and best into restaurants for holiday gatherings. Floor stocks were in a full range, weights mostly desirable. Trade interest on parts was generally inactive as many buyers and sellers remain absent from business for holiday and spring breaks. Supplies were in balance, other than wings which were plentiful. The market tone was steady to firm on dark meat items, barely steady on wings and steady on the balance.

**SOUTHERN BROILER** Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Demand was seasonally light to moderate with limited trading due in part to other holiday interest. Supplies were usually fully sufficient for trade needs, even though some processors were closed for Good Friday. In the parts structure, movement was light to moderate. Breast items were sufficient, dark meat was adequate, and wings were at adequate to fully adequate. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed, but mostly desirable weights.

**WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS** Preliminary majority prices were unchanged. The market tone was overall steady with trading reported at mainly unchanged prices for next week's deliveries. Offerings in fair balance due to reduced slaughter schedules. Buying activity was only fair as interest in additional product slow to develop. Retailer demand was moderate, best for parts and where scattered features in progress. Dealers anticipated satisfactory weekend clearances.

**NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYERS** Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was seasonally light to fair entering the holiday weekend. Offerings of all sizes were sufficient for the light and unaggressive buyer interest. Retail and distributive movement was light. The market tone was steady. In the parts complex, breast items were more than sufficient for trade needs. Dark meat cuts were at least adequate. Wings were readily available and competitively priced.

**DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS** Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds continued seasonally slow and about as expected for the Easter/Passover period. Offerings were light, but were generally adequate and in fairly good balance. Live supplies were moderate. Processor schedules were very light as some plants closed in observance of Good Friday and/or to keep production in balance with much reduced requirements. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 72 to 84 cents. Trade sentiment was steady. In the parts complex, wings were readily available. Other items were adequate to fully adequate.

\*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA.

### BRANDED U.S. GRADE A

RANGE	69-91
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	76.05
NO. OF BOXES	7,588
CUMULATIVE	76.74
	03/21/05-03/25/05
	77.05
NO. OF BOXES	28,617
	03/22/04-03/26/04
	34,040

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS					MAR 25 WEEKLY				
ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000) WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	750	140.00-160.00	145-150	149.28	555	145.00-160.00	148-154	150.22	2,990 150.01
TENDERLOINS	184	150.00-201.00	153-157	159.33	208	150.00-200.00	150-157	154.42	858 156.30
BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT				76	89.00-103.00	90-93	93.20	388 92.13
FRONT HALVES	60	78.00-83.00	79-80	79.33	TOO FEW TO REPORT				442 79.87
LEGS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				46	42.00-52.00	-	43.30	271 42.68
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	525	29.00-33.00	30	30.18	510	29.00-33.00	30	30.10	2,555 30.14
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,006	30.00-33.00	32	32.00	1,100	30.00-36.00	31-32	31.88	5,401 32.06
WINGS (WHOLE)	305	70.00-109.00	102-106	101.25	305	69.00-108.00	102-106	100.90	1,525 101.18
WINGS (CUT)	309	85.00-122.00	-	114.32	320	84.00-121.00	-	113.67	1,574 114.88
DRUMSTICKS	37	37.00-56.00	-	42.35	TOO FEW TO REPORT				247 39.72
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				135 43.12
B/S THIGHS	55	88.00-99.00	-	93.27	TOO FEW TO REPORT				352 94.22
*****					*****				
WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS					WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS				
TRADING FOR MAR 24, 2005 F.O.B. DOCK.					TRADING FOR MAR 25, 2005 F.O.B. DOCK.				

## RANGE

## TODAY'S AVERAGE

## RANGE

## TODAY'S AVERAGE

## 5-DAY AVERAGE

53.50 - 58.00

54.76

52.00 - 58.00

54.78

55.02

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

**NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS** - Trucklot buying activity increased slightly entering the holiday weekend but noted as no better than moderate overall. Offerings of boneless skinless breasts were fully sufficient for current needs. Bone-in breasts remained adequate to available with spot discounting noted where product was slow to clear. Dark meat cuts were adequate. Wings were readily available and competitively priced. Retail and distributive movement was no better than fair. The market tone was generally steady on breast items and dark meat cuts. Wings were barely steady to weak.

ICE PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER POUND.

MAR 24, 2005

MAR 25, 2005

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	WTD AVG	WEEKLY VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	160	157.02	627,680	160	155.48	312,560	155.30	2,811,310
TENDERLOINS	155-160	156.32	134,520	155-160	153.83	49,080	155.10	619,527
BREAST - WITH RIBS	91-92	97.95	116,960	91-92	104.34	83,240	99.28	484,080
BREAST - LINE RUN	91	90.05	93,000	91	89.80	90,000	90.76	465,400
LEGS	44-45	46.19	215,320	44-45	51.20	54,120	44.62	1,285,680
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	31-32	31.99	245,320	31-32	32.10	245,739	32.49	1,270,077
DRUMSTICKS	31-32	39.46	134,320	31-32	38.80	87,200	37.74	619,380
THIGHS	38-39	46.35	69,760	38-39	47.43	59,600	47.16	296,420
B/S THIGHS	96-97	94.94	74,560	96-97	93.79	34,240	94.71	353,770
WINGS (WHOLE)	97-98	104.05	158,080	97-98	100.36	61,000	103.39	646,800
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.37	22,920	10-12	14.39	8,640	12.13	116,483
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	29.18	15,280	30-35	25.91	15,720	28.78	111,360
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	63.74	14,360	60-65	61.95	13,040	63.93	87,880

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). \* TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

\*\* WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPE, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

**ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)**

ESTIMATED (1,000)		ACTUAL (1,000)		AVG WT		ACTUAL (1,000)		AVG WTS		SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY, DELIVERED TO RETAILERS		RANGE
03/25	03/24	03/23	03/22	03/23	03/22	03/18	03/16			FRESH FRYERS		97-99
Alabama	3,136	4,034	3,942	3,933	5.20	5.24	3,931	5.24		ROASTERS 4# & UP		99-107
Arkansas	4,659	5,375	5,338	5,323	5.08	5.10	5,177	5.02		HENS UNDER 5#		
Delmarva	1,682	2,196	1,871	2,185	5.27	5.57	2,102	5.46		HENS OVER 5#		65-73
KY-LA-TN	1,927	2,210	2,158	2,182	5.03	5.02	2,414	4.96		DUCKS		
Mississippi	2,789	3,071	2,619	3,249	5.28	5.46	3,039	5.39		RABBITS-WHOLE		
North Carolina	1,850	2,449	2,435	2,432	6.50	6.57	2,561	6.49		RABBITS-CUT UP		
Texas	2,242	2,146	2,203	2,161	5.14	5.16	2,380	4.97				
Total	18,285	21,481	20,566	21,465	5.32	5.39	21,604	5.31				
Mon-Fri	103,736(A)						106,228(A)			<b>SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS</b>		

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 25-Mar-05 and 26-Mar-05 is estimated to be 27,356,000 head down 15.62 percent from a week ago and down -9.62 percent from a year ago. (Last week 32,419,000, last year 30,268,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the weekending 26-Mar-05 is estimated to be 150,592,000 head down 4.29 percent from a week ago, and down 1.41 percent from a year ago. (Last week 157,335,000, last year 152,749,000)

		RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	105-107
	DRY PACK	105-108
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	108-111
	DRY PACK	111
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	89-93
	DRY PACK	89-95
DUCKS		180-192

**YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED** Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 12-Mar-05 (Preliminary),

(A) Fast food/ (B) Retail (C) Deboning  
Food service  
4.20 Lbs. & down 4.21-5.25 Lbs. 5.26 Lbs. & Up

	THOUSANDS		
Head	30,595	19,126	47,714
Avg Weight	3.52	4.68	6.40
% of total /1	31%	20%	49%

#### Comparisons

Last week	26,451	23,762	51,490
Avg Weight	3.56	4.70	6.35
% of total /1	26%	23%	51%

Same week, yr ago /2	34,478	21,485	47,775
Avg Weight	3.60	4.81	6.22
% of total /1	33%	21%	46%

To date/2005	264,943	211,308	480,527
To date/2004	261,771	212,957	430,921

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding. /2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

#### **LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION** (Preliminary)

W/E 19-Mar-2005	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
	THOUSANDS				
Head	157,335	1,385	1,402	2,787	512
Avg Wt	5.20	3.40	8.03	5.73	6.73
Last week	157,630	1,720	1,317	3,037	506
Same wk yr ago	153,006	1,283	1,338	2,621	463
Avg Wt	5.15	3.36	8.08	5.77	6.74
To-date/2005	1,726,029	15,920	14,321	30,241	5,599
To-date/2004	1,689,638	14,020	13,984	28,004	5,031

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 162.0 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period was 159.2 million head, or 2.8 million less than estimated available.

#### **GRAYSTONE SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION -**

MARCH 22, 2005

	RANGE		RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	1.00 - 1.05	Silkie	2.00 - 2.25ea.
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	.90 - 1.00	Geese 9-14 LBS	.75 - .80
Red Fowl 4-5 LBS	.50 - .60	Pigeons	3.10 - 3.25ea.
Red Fowl 5-6 LBS	.70 - .80	White Pigeons	5.00 - 5.50ea.
Crossbred Fowl 5-9 LBS	.70 - .75	Rabbits 4-6 LBS	1.40 - 1.60
Crossbred Roasters		Rabbits 6-9 LBS	1.20 - 1.30
4-6 LBS	.90 - 1.10	Bunnies	5.00 - 12.00ea.
Crossbred Roasters		Guinea Pigs	.05 - .25ea.
7-11 LBS	.70 - .80	Goats	40.00 - 45.00ea.
Guinea Fowl	1.80 - 2.00	Kid Goats	35.00 - 45.00ea.
Banty Roasters	3.25 - 3.75ea.		
Banty Hens	2.00 - 2.50ea.	Total Coops Sold	765

**EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY** FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 21-MARCH-2005

**DUCKLINGS:** PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER POUND

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	143-145	149-151
MOSTLY		

MIDWEST	127-131	128-133
MOSTLY		

**ROASTERS:** PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED, CENTS PER POUND

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	66.00-74.50	72.00-74.00
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	65.00-86.00	75.00-78.00

**SQUABS:** NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	63.36-72.90
14 OZ.	69.84-81.00
16 OZ.	74.88-89.10

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA RI,SC,VA,VT,WV

**CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS** Prices were unchanged. Trade sentiment steady. Demand continues moderate to very good. Supplies were adequate to close. Schedules full-time to overtime. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18oz boneless breast at \$4.25-5.25, bone in legs at \$1.35-1.45, gizzards at \$1.35-1.40, wings at \$0.30-0.50, livers at \$0.75-1.70, and feet at \$0.80-1.15.

NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 21-MARCH-2005

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	120-135	127-139

#### **ESTIMATED U.S. FRYER SLAUGHTER/ FRYER AVAILABILITY COMPARISON**

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
February 12	156.3	162.1	96%	5.29
19	158.6	162.8	97%	5.16
26	158.3	163.4	97%	5.28
March 5	162.0	163.0	99%	5.24
12	159.5	161.9	99%	5.16
19	159.2	162.0	98%	5.20
Year to date	1746.9	1775.3	98%	
March 26		164.0		
April 2		165.4		

#### **BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER**

##### **Under Federal Inspection**

W/E	03/26/05	03/19/05	% CHG	03/27/04	% CHG
Broilers	150,592	157,335*	-4.29	152,749*	-1.41
Cattle	572	590	-03	616*	-07
Hogs	1,955	1,925	+02	1,921*	+02

\*ACTUAL

**NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET** Trading was too few to report on heavy canners; lower on lights when compared to a week earlier. Demand was light to no better than fair for light canners; heavy canners were fair to moderate with most supplies of heavy canners being used internally. Offerings were fully adequate for light canners; generally adequate for heavy canners. Processing schedules were normal to less than normal. The undertone was steady to about steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

<b>LIGHT CANNER HENS</b>	<b>HEAVY CANNER HENS</b>
<b>(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)</b>	<b>(WITHOUT NECKS)</b>
26-30 MAJORITY 27-30	TOO FEW SALES TO REPORT

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

<b>LIGHT CANNER HENS</b>	<b>HEAVY CANNER HENS</b>
<b>(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)</b>	<b>(WITHOUT NECKS)</b>
28-33 MAJORITY 29-31	TOO FEW SALES TO REPORT

#### **LIGHT TYPE HENS**

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS (INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

**EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN** Majority prices were unchanged when compared to a week ago. Demand was at least moderate with offerings of spent hens fully adequate for current trade needs. Processing schedules were normal to instances less than normal. Trade sentiment was steady.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
REMOVAL COST	3-13	8-11

**SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN** Costs of disposal were too few to report. Demand was light for fully adequate to ample offerings of light hens. Schedules were set according to a slow to fair call for processed volume. Trade sentiment was at least steady on salvage costs.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
REMOVAL COST	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

**NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN** Removal costs ranged unchanged. Demand was fair to fairly good with offerings fully adequate to mostly ample as producers make flock adjustments for post Easter production. Schedules full-time. Trade sentiment steady.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
REMOVAL COST	0-12	5.5-8.5

#### **HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) \***

PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 28-MAR-05

**SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN** Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was at least moderate for the adequate to about adequate offerings. Processing schedules for next week were noted as normal to instances less than normal. Sales of finished product were generally sufficient and clearing satisfactorily. The undertone was at least steady.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

**SOUTH CENTRAL LIVE HEAVY-TYPE HENS** Trading was too few to report. Demand was moderate for adequate offerings of heavy hens. Finished sales were moderate. Schedules were normal. Trade sentiment was generally steady.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

\* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

**WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN** Plant schedules generally full. Offerings ample.

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